

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell stack assembly for providing power to a working load, comprising:

a first set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells;

a first threshold detector responsive to ~~a~~ an-stack terminal voltage across the first set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells;

a first transistor coupled for activation via the first threshold detector; and

a first dump load, wherein the first transistor is responsive to the stack terminal voltage across the first set of fuel cells to selectively couple the first dump load in parallel with the first set of fuel cells when the stack terminal voltage across the first set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells exceeds a threshold voltage and to uncouple the first dump load when the stack terminal voltage across the first set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells is below the threshold voltage.

2. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a second set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells;

a second threshold detector responsive to an stack terminal voltage across the second set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells;

a second transistor coupled for activation via the second threshold detector; and

a second dump load, wherein the second transistor is responsive to the stack terminal voltage across the second set of fuel cells to selectively couple the second dump load in parallel with the second set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells when the stack terminal voltage across the second set of fuel cells exceeds a threshold voltage and to uncouple the second

dump load when the stack terminal voltage across the second set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells is below the threshold voltage.

3. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1 wherein the dump load is positioned upstream ~~downstream~~ from the solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells in an air flow for providing heat to the solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells.

4. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1 wherein the dump load is positioned proximate the solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells for providing heat thereto.

5. (Original) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a capacitance electrically coupled across the dump load.

6. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
an inductance electrically coupled in series between the first set of solid polymer electrochemical fuel cells and the dump load.

7. (Original) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1 wherein the first transistor is an n-channel field effect transistor.

8. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1 wherein the first transistor is a p-channel field effect transistor.

9. (Original) The fuel cell stack assembly of claim 1 wherein the first transistor is one of an n-channel bipolar junction transistor and a p-channel bipolar junction transistor.

10-20. (Canceled)